Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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P 191415Z SEP 73 FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3623 INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: UNITED PARTY: CRITICISM FROM VERLIGHTE RURAL

CONSTITUENTS

- 1. ON SEPTEMBER 16 TWO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CAPE TOWN PAPERS PUBLISHED AN ACCOUNT OF UNITED PARTY INTERNAL PAPER THAT HAD BEEN SENT TO UP LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAF AND ITS CAPE LEADER MYBURGH STREICHER BY FIVE MEMBERS OF CALEDON DIVISION OF PARTY.
- 2. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNT IN SUNDAY TIMES MEMORANDUM CRITICIZED PARTY LEADERSHIP FOR HAVING LOST CONTACTS WITH RANK AND FILE AND FOR ITS FAILURE TO DEVELOP CLEAR AND DYNAMIC ALTERNATIVE TO NATIONALIST PARTY AND ATTRACT DISSIDENT NATIONALISTS AND YOUTH. DOCUMENT URGED UP TO ADOPT FOLLOWING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS: (A) WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION; (B) SUPPORT "MULTI-RACIAL SPORT AT ALL LEVELS WITHOUT COMPULSION"; (C) ADOPT PARTY'S FEDERAL POLICY SO AS TO PLACE COLORED PEOPLE ON VOTERS' ROLL WITH UNIFORM QUALIFICATION FOR VOTE; (D) ALLOW THE AFRICAN HOME-OWNERSHIP IN HIS OWN AREA AND NORMAL FAMILY LIFE; (E) REACT MORE VIGOROUSLY AND IMMEDIATELY TO GOVERNMENT'S BLUNDERS; (F) PUT PARTY'S OWN HOUSE IN ORDER RATHER THAN WAGE WAR ON ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS WHEN IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTS DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN PARTY.

- 3. SUNDAY TIMES COMMENTED THAT DOCUMENT, COMING FROM TRADITIONALLY CONSERVATIVE UP PLATTELAND CONSTITUENCY, ILLUSTRATES DEGREE TO WHICH PARTY'S GRASS ROOTS ATTITUDES ARE SHIFTING TOWARD GREATER REALIS.
- 4. MEMORANDUM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY PARTY'S SOUTHERN CAPE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT BREDASDORP ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND SOMEONE PRESENT AT MEETING MAY HAVE PASSED COPIES TO THE PRESS.
- 5. STREICHER APPARENTLY WAS DEEPLY UPSET BY THIS "UNFORGIVABLE" BREACH OF CONFIDENCE WHICH HE TOLD PRESS WAS DESIGNED TO CAUSE THE PARTY GREAT EMBARRASSMENT. ON OTHER HAND, IN COMMENTS TO CAPE TIMES, GRAAF UNDERPLAYED SUCH EMBARRASSMENT AND DUBBED WHOLE EPISODE AS "STORM IN A TEA CUP".
- 6. COMMENT: CAUTION SHOULD BE OBSERVED IN ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE OF CALEDON MEMORANDUM AND ITS LEAK TO THE PRESS AS IT IS NOT CLEAR (A) HOW WIDELY OPINIONS OF FIVE PARTY MEMBERS WHO DREW UP DOCUMENT IS SHARED WITHIN PLATTELAND CONSTITUENCIES, AND (B) EXTENT TO WHICH PARTY LEADERSHIP WILL TAKE RECOMMENDATIONS SERIOUSLY. EPISODE IS REMINDER THAT UP REMAINS FAR FROM UNITED. GAMON

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Message Attributes

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